

**ABSTRACT****CONVERTOR SHARED BY MULTIPLE VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORKS**

- 5 A VPN converter for interfacing two or more VPNs to an external network receives information relating to a communication session between an entity in any of the VPNs and the external network and converts a format such as an encoding or transmission format of the information, e.g. between VoIP packets and TDM signals for the PSTN. The converter is under the control of a call server and carries out
- 10 routing and NAT functions. It determines which VPN the information relates to. By sharing the call server and converter between many VPNs, the amount of equipment can be reduced.